

October 16, 2009



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Dear Friend,

As the author of H. Con. Res. 131 - which directs the Architect of the Capitol to engrave the national motto and pledge of allegiance in the Capitol Visitor Center (CVC) - I was grateful to see its passage early this summer. Broad, bipartisan support of this bill led to its passage in the House with 410 votes and the Senate by unanimous consent.



Congressmen Greg Harper and Dan Lungren survey the progress of the inscription of the national motto in the CVC, after the passage of H. Con. Res. 131.

I recently went down to the CVC to see the progress of the inscription of the national motto and pledge of allegiance. The first stages have been completed and although there is still scaffolding in place to complete the pledge, I wanted to share with you some

early pictures of the progress until you may be able to see it in person when you visit our nation's Capitol.

The CVC, the 580,000-square-foot extension of the Capitol, was designed to "to provide a welcoming and educational environment for visitors to learn about the unique characteristics of the House and the Senate and the legislative process, as well as the history and development of the architecture and art of the U.S. Capitol."

We have completed construction of the CVC which serves as a meeting place and the entry way to our nation's Capitol. I hope that you will visit Washington and enjoy the wonderful



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sights which tell the history of our nation. The CVC itself contains a variety of statues including among others Sacajawea, King Kamehameha of Hawaii, Jeanette Rankin the first female member of Congress and even Filo T. Farnsworth of Utah (the father of television).



In the midst of all these wonderful symbols of who we are as a people and a nation, I felt that an additional element of our nation's history would add to this representation of our common patrimony. Religious faith has been an ever present fact in our history which must be included in any picture of who we are as Americans. In fact, from the very birth of our nation our Founding Fathers declared that it is our Creator who has endowed us with our rights, inextricably intertwining our

democracy with Providence. As Thomas Jefferson himself said, "God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God?" The failure to include our religious heritage among other representations would give an incomplete and inadequate picture of our national ethos.

If you are traveling to Washington DC, please let my office know so that we can provide you some information and even help arrange some tours for you. On my website you can find information regarding [Washington tours](#) and a [tour request form](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan'.

Daniel E. Lungren  
Member of Congress

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